



Mapping Challenges Updates

Our back-to-school season is in full swing as TNMCorps Mapping Challenges continue in New England. Once these states finish up, our next area of focus will shift to the Midwest. And with autumn in the air, and Halloween right around the corner, perhaps we'll also see some cemetery challenges emerge!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Mapping Challenges Updates](#)
- 2 [Mapping Challenges: Volunteer Milestones](#)
- 3 [Blast from the Past Part 2: Past Newsletter Articles](#)
- 4 [Revisiting the Structure Finder](#)
- 5 [TNMCorps Puzzle: Newsletter Scavenger Hunt](#)
- 6 [Recognition](#)

Volunteers wrapped up 4 challenges since the [last newsletter](#) was published and have collected and updated close to 75% of our estimated total number of city and town halls*. The table below highlights these challenges along with current challenges.

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	LENGTH (DAYS)	# OF UNIQUE POINTS	# OF VOLUNTEERS
City / Town Halls	MA / CT / RI	8/27/20 - present	(See our original post from 8/27/20 for tips and tricks on this challenge)		
Schools	OH/MI/IN	8/6/20 - present	(See our original post from 8/6/20 for tips and tricks on this challenge)		
Schools	ME / NH / VT	7/16/20 - 8/6/20	21	841	8
(July 2020 Newsletter)					
Schools	LA	6/26/20 - 7/31/20	35	1,080	10
City / Town Halls	ME / NH / VT	6/19/20 - 9/3/20	76	865	14
Fire Stations	AL	6/4/20 - 7/16/20	42	608	9

*Our estimate of total city and town halls is based on the number of incorporated places in the US as tracked by the Census Bureau. We are assuming that most city and town halls fall within an incorporated place boundary.

All challenge updates are listed on our [website](#) under Resources > Mapping Challenges.

Mapping Challenges: Volunteer Milestones

Since the last newsletter, we've also had two volunteers complete their 25th mapping challenge! Nice work! We reached out to these volunteers and asked them to share a bit about themselves and their interests in TNMCorps' Mapping Challenges.

superlemur, who is a member of the [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#), our highest recognition badge, recently completed his 25th challenge with [Schools in ME, NH, & VT!](#)



“Twenty-five challenges you say? I really had no idea how many I have been involved in. This latest one of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana schools is a bigger challenge than most due to the sheer number of schools involved. I am editing mostly green squares from Columbus to Cincinnati. The district schools are usually straightforward edits, but I like researching the deletions that have to be made. Deletions are usually due to school closures from consolidations, poor performance, low enrollment, or damages too costly to repair or upgrade; preschools; closed Christian single day schools; or demolished structures, etc. Google Street View™ is very helpful for identifying signs with the school name and to see if a school still exists. I found one in Indiana I wouldn't send my dog to deleted!

“I really enjoy doing this stuff. My career has been in electronics, but my passion has always been geography. In 3rd grade I got the Milky Way because I knew all the state capitals. I have memorized many tons of useless data, such as the 107 mountain peaks in Rocky Mountain National Park over 10,000 feet, alphabetically or height-wise; over 500 cities, towns etc. in South Dakota; and the 10 longest rivers wholly or partly in the U.S. (do you know what they are?). I dread the day The National Map is finished. What will I do??? It seems to be over 95% complete west of the 100th meridian. But there are enough cemeteries in the eastern U.S. to last for quite a while.”

Not to worry, new features will be coming soon! In the meantime, check out the [Structure Finder](#) to find red or green points to edit!

geo163, who is a member of the [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#), recently completed their 25th challenge with [Schools in Louisiana!](#) They were highlighted in our [May 2018 newsletter](#), and also participated in the [International Map Year](#) editing challenge and [earned a TNMCorps patch](#) for their contributions.

“WOW - I have participated in 25 map challenges! The National Map Corps Team emailed me that I am 'one of the first volunteers to achieve this milestone.' I was also one of seventeen volunteers who earned the [International Map Year Patch in 2016](#). As with any award program you always seek the next level. Getting nationally recognized for my hard work is greatly appreciated. It seems I gravitate towards cartographic work because of my interest in it, education (BS in Geography and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning), and work experience both as a volunteer (Colorado State Parks Urban Trails Maps) and 30 years as an Urban Planner. As an Urban Planner I have designed and created maps for community plans. My interest in the TNMCorps map challenges is in both being a contributor in meeting the focused need for editing and as a vicarious traveler to those places.”



Blast from the Past Part 2: Past Newsletter Articles

Every now and then we highlight past newsletter articles, especially for our newer TNMCorps volunteers who may have not yet browsed through our vast collection of information. It can be overwhelming sifting through so many documents to find what you need, so this month we've highlighted articles from past newsletters to help you out with our current school, city/town hall, and upcoming spooky-season cemetery [mapping challenges!](#)

March 2019: [Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 9: Schools](#)
 March 2019: [Rare Find: 4 High Schools in One](#)
 November 2017: [Illinois Schools Mapping Challenge Extended](#)
 May 2017: [Preschool Update](#)
 May 2017: [Amish Schools](#)
 December 2015: [Step by Step Editing Tips: Schools](#)
 January 2015: [Where Can I Find Authoritative Lists of Schools?](#)
 January 2015: [What about Alaska Schools?](#)

Schools



City/Town Halls

July 2020: [City/Town Hall Collection Milestone](#)
 March 2020: [City and Town Hall Collection Project Milestone](#)
 January 2020: [Colorful City Halls in Puerto Rico](#)
 November 2019: [American Fact Finder Tutorial](#)
 September 2019: [Cities vs. Towns vs. Villages](#)
 July 2019: [Ensuring Data Completeness](#)
 May 2019: [Proper Use of the Address 2 Field](#)
 November 2018: [Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 8: City/Town Halls](#)
 September 2018: [New Structure Feature! Introducing City/Town Halls](#)

May 2020: [\(P\)awesome Volunteer Update: Stella!](#)
 September 2019: [Cemetery Research and Guidance](#)
 July 2019: [Closer Look at the Layers List](#)
 March 2019: [Volunteer Collaboration: RISailor and Cgibson](#)
 May 2018: [Volunteer Spotlight: Cgibson](#)
 September 2017: [Aerial Imagery Interpretation Part 1: Cemeteries](#)
 February 2016: [What do I do with stacked cemetery points?](#)
 October 2014: [Cemetery Blues](#)

Cemeteries

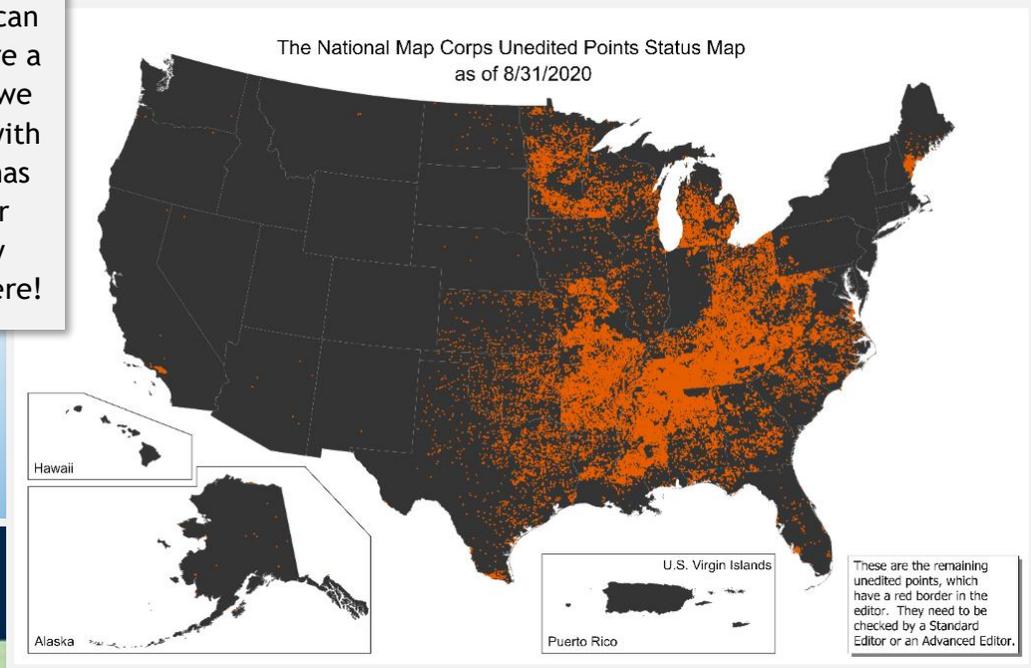
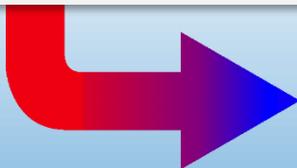


For a list of TNMCorps staff's favorite newsletter articles, check out the [Blast from the Past Part 1](#) article from our [November 2019 newsletter](#).

Revisiting the Structure Finder

Not sure where or what to edit? Having trouble finding unedited points or edited points to peer review? Or just want to help us clean up the hard-to-find stragglers? Check out the [Structure Finder!](#)

Whether you are a new volunteer or an old pro, you may have noticed that it can be hard to find points to edit. If you are a newer volunteer, or Standard Editor, we ask you to check the unedited points with a **red border**. Since so much editing has been done by our fantastic volunteer community, they can be particularly tricky to find, but they are still out there!



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Structure Finder

Instructions and About

- Points that need to be edited
- Points that need to be peer-reviewed

Generate Random Point

Standard Edit

Peer Review

127

The purple circles represent clustered points. The number shown is the number of clustered points. Zoom in or click to see all of the points.

Updated in Real Time

Beason Grove Cemetery

Link to point

Click here to generate a random point that needs to be edited

Click here to generate a random point that needs to be peer reviewed

Click here to jump to the point's location in the editor.

Clicking on the “Standard Edit” button in the Structure Finder tool will randomly locate an unedited point. Select the link to open the point in the map editor, and you can choose to edit that point. If you are a Peer Reviewer who has struggled to find the edited points with a **green border**, the Structure Finder tool has a “Peer Review” button that will select a random edited point needing peer review. Advanced Editors can use either button to find a random point to edit.

For additional information, check out our [article on the Structure Finder](#) from the [November 2018 newsletter](#).

TNMCORPS Puzzle: Newsletter Scavenger Hunt

Our bimonthly newsletters are great resources for editing tips and tricks, TNMCORPS updates, and fun facts, but if you're new to TNMCORPS, you may not yet have taken the time to look through older issues. Well this is your chance! Dig through our [archives](#) to answer the following newsletter scavenger hunt questions, and maybe you'll learn something new along the way!

1. How many volunteers made it to our top recognition category, the [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#), in 2019? Who were they?
2. Which new structure feature did TNMCORPS start collecting in 2018?
3. Which two historic Colorado county courthouses were featured in 2018 newsletters?
4. What are three pieces of information you can/should put in the Comment field?
5. What bit of information can be entered into the Address 2 field?
6. What term, coined by one of our longtime volunteers, refers to a nearly extinct sub-species of cartographer, identified by a baffled expression when confronted by a computer map screen?
7. When did TNMCORPS publish its first newsletter?
8. Which prominent American architectural periods did TNMCORPS highlight in a 3-part series?
9. Which issue featured tips and tricks for editing data in Puerto Rico and Alaska?
10. What is a key factor to evaluate when deciding whether or not to use social media as an authoritative source?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Key: 1. Two; [tmp21038](#) and [USGSTaylor](#), 2. [City and Town Halls](#), 3. [Ouray County Courthouse](#) and [Hinsdale County Courthouse](#), 4. [Sources/URLs](#), [verification process](#), [directional information](#), 5. [Building designator: name or number](#), 6. [Cartograsaurus](#), 7. [October, 2014](#), 8. [Colonial](#), [Revival](#), [Gilded Age](#), 9. [July, 2017](#), 10. [Who authored the page](#)

Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing.

Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the “[public domain](#),” and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov



New Recognition Category Members



Squadron of Biplane Spectators
(6000-6999)



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers
(5000-5999)



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists
(3000-3999)

- JoanMCameron
- Carat17
- ktomansager
- Peregrine



Flock of Winged Witnesses
(4000-4999)

- ktomansager



Theodolite Assemblage
(2000-2999)

- hercula24



Alidade Alliance
(1000-1999)



Stadia Board Society
(500-999)



Circle of the Surveyor's Compass
(200-499)

- vanij
- jluckhardt
- Vexillophile



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- Neeti123
- azko1support2
- Vexillophile
- shoagland



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- areyoucirrus
- AlexFloeckher
- ShaneM@USGS
- Alex Patch
- DylanM@USGS
- azko1support2
- CarolsNotinMN
- EA60134
- shoagland



Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)

- Aidan Otto
- Alex Patch
- DylanM@USGS
- EA60134
- Robert Sapunor
- ChrisKlesmith
- ShaneM@USGS
- EPBumann
- aerwin717
- wblischke
- azko1support2
- KenVigi
- areyoucirrus
- Rock_Fish
- imarrs
- shoagland

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

